July 12, 2010

Objective:

Students will be able to:

* Connect last week’s lesson with this week’s topic
* Identify what we already know about the Supreme Court
* Create list of questions we still have about Supreme Court

What is the Supreme Court?

* The mother of all courts.
* Highest ranked court- if no other court can solve it, the last result is to go to the Supreme Court

Connections:

* Immigration laws go through the Supreme Court.
* Some people believe that the laws in Arizona are unconstitutional. – 14th Amendment
* Supreme Court makes sure laws are constitutional.
* Obama and the federal government want to make sure that SB 1070 is not passed. It will be decided in the Supreme Court.
* If the federal government is trying to sue somebody, they have to go through the Supreme Court.

**Vocabulary Terms**

* Precedent: the prior court case example that has similar characteristics to a current case and can be used to help make a decision in that case; How do they use precedent?, Does that mean that the Supreme Court hears similar cases?
* Chief Justice: the head of the Supreme Court, who makes the final decision; Who is the current Chief Justice?, How is the Chief Justice chosen?
* Conservative/liberal: the moral beliefs of the two political parties, Republican and Democrat; What are these moral beliefs?, Conservatives-more traditional views, Liberal- more open
* Confirmation hearing: a meeting to confirm the final decision; The final decision about what?, Don’t use the word in the definition., a process to confirm a new Supreme Court Justice; Elena Kagan
* Majority opinion: conclusion of multiple opinions on a topic; 5-4?; Since it is an opinion, does it necessarily mean it goes through as the final decision?; the side that has the most Justices agreeing with it

**Already know**

* The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices.
* There is no limit on the number of years that a Justice can serve.
* The Supreme Court delivers the final decision on a court case. There is nothing higher.

**Want to know**

* Who is the current Supreme Court Chief Justice?
* Who are the current members of the Supreme Court?
* How is a Justice elected?
* Is there diversity?
* When was it created?
* Do court justices get voted to become a chief justice?
* What are the powers of the chief justice?
* Is there a balance of republicans and democrats?
* Why did they create the Supreme Court?
* What are the qualifications of becoming a Supreme Court Justice?
* Do the Justices consider the opinions of the people when making a decision?
* What do they consider when making their opinions?
* What is the most current Supreme Court case? BP Oil Spill?
* Do Justices have to be nominated by the federal government?
* How many women have served on the Supreme Court? Asians? African Americans?

1. What are the qualifications of becoming a Supreme Court Justice?
2. Do they try to achieve diversity to prevent bias?